

Top Ten Reasons Not To Be A Christian #2

Introduction. This morning we looked at five objections that people raise when thinking about obedience to the gospel. It included a quick rebuttal of hypocrisy, feelings of inadequacy relating to being good and knowledge, the feeling that the Christian life is too difficult, and how can we go against our family when we obey.

Our study continues with the greatest of respect toward those who may possess these attitudes. We need to overcome them and persuade people to be obedient to Christ.

I. ***"I Am Too Wicked; God Could Not Forgive Me"***

- A. What have you done? Have you persecuted Christians? Have you forced them to blaspheme their own Savior through slow and painful torture? Have you persecuted them to the point of death?
- B. If God can forgive Saul, the persecutor of Jesus and Christians (Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-22; 1 Timothy 1:13-16), and if He can forgive those who crucified His own Son (Luke 23:33-34; Acts 2:36-47), then will He not readily accept you (Luke 15:1-7)? Jesus died for the sins of the whole world, including yours (1 Timothy 2:5-6; 1 John 2:2).

II. ***"God Is Merciful And Will Not Condemn Me"***

- A. God truly is merciful. He does not want any to be lost (2 Peter 3:9). That is why He gave us a chance to embrace the grace that He offers through faith in Jesus, thereby allowing us to be saved (John 3:16).
- B. However, the Lord is also just, and He will one day return unexpectedly (1 Thessalonians 5:1-3). Then the door of opportunity will be closed, and only those who are prepared will be saved (Matthew 25:1-13). God's promise and warning is that He will take vengeance and punish people who never obey His gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8). Will you ignore the warning?

III. ***"I Am A Good, Moral Person"***

- A. On that last great day, there will be many surprised people whom we would consider good, moral people. There were good, moral people in Acts who still need the preaching of the gospel to save them (Acts 8:27-28; 16:14-15).
- B. Many might have even acknowledged Him as Lord, and some might have gone so far as to have performed many great works in His name (Matthew 7:21-22; Luke 6:46).
- C. However, if they do not obey and perform according to the Lord's command, then Jesus will not recognize them, and they will be

eternally condemned (Matthew 7:23). Are you obeying the Lord's command (Mark 16:15-16)?

IV. **"I Am Not Ready Yet"**

- A. A "wild oat" was a useless, pervasive weed that was difficult to kill, and "sowing your wild oats" is an idiom meaning that young people squander their time or indulge in wicked sexual activities. Once they have had their fill of sin and its pleasures, they then plan to offer their ragged life to God (cf. Ecclesiastes 12:1).
- B. Such people underestimate God. He will not be tricked or mocked (Galatians 6:7-8). You will reap what you sow. God knows genuine repentance (Matthew 20:1-16). In reality, the race is not to become a Christian before you die, but to repent before your heart becomes hardened through the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:8, 15; 4:7).

V. **"Me, Myself, And I"**

- A. Few, if any, would readily admit this is the reason for delaying their conversion. However, at some point, all of the nine above reasons cease to be barriers, and they become excuses, masking their own selfish, stubborn rebellion as the true reason (Numbers 14:22; Revelation 9:20-21).
- B. However, such people will one day find themselves surrounded by all the selfish beings that ever lived, angels and people (Matthew 25:41, 46). How effectively will you be able to serve yourself and find happiness in that realm of eternal evil, darkness, and suffering, where nothing good dwells?

Conclusion. Will you now do what you know to be right? How do you know this is not your last chance before you either die or your conscience becomes so hardened that it can no longer be pricked by the truth? If something still stands in your way, please talk to someone about it. There is nothing worth giving up eternity with God (Mark 8:34-38)!